

NEWS FROM WHITE SANDS

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

White Sand's National Management Association hosts high school speech contest

By Cheerie R. Patneau

The local NASA White Sands Chapter of the National Management Association (NMA) hosted its annual high school speech contest on March 15. Four contestants presented original speeches based on the American Enterprise System.

In his speech "The Business of Success," Joseph Beltran ran the gamut of a young man in business from his first fast-food job to the last portfolio of an accomplished entrepreneur. Julianne Curry spoke out on "The Entrepreneur's Independence," where in "patents, profits, choice and competition, the sky is the limit. Or is it?" Stephanie Ramirez, a tour guide in "Lights, Camera, Action! The Entertainment Industry," showed the audience how the entertainment industry directly impacts the American economy.

But it was Jessica Williams' speech "American Dreams Deferred" that captured the judges' and audience's attention when she asked: "What happens to an American Dream deferred? As

tax-paying citizens, Americans know that paying taxes support this country and what this country is founded upon: The American Dream. The dream that the American enterprise system creates and makes possible, and the dream that can sometimes go terribly wrong, can dry up and can simply explode."

The Mayfield junior compared the 1929 stock market crash—with its rise of monopolies, big spending and the loss of small businesses—to today's bearish market.

She was selected to represent the NASA White Sands NMA Chapter at this month's Southwest Area Regional Competition in San Antonio, Texas. The second place winner was Ramirez,

with Curry placing third.

"The contestants prepared extensively, and that made competition much closer this year," said White Sands Manager Joe Fries. "All four

contestants were very good. It was hard to guess who the winner was going to be."

Steve

McDougle, speech contest coordinator, said he believed the contest was "the toughest ever. Our contestant has a good chance at regionals and, hopefully, nationals."

The students represented Las Cruces Public School's Mayfield High School (Beltran, Ramirez, and Williams) and Mesilla Valley Christian School (Curry).

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—Bob Baker, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI) Program Manager

"The contest was an opportunity to support young people in our community, and definitely the best speech contest I've ever seen," said Bob Baker, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI) Program Manager. "Overall, it was a very close race, but (it was) encouraging to see the youth of Las Cruces taking an educational opportunity to compete in our contest and the nationals."

Joe San Filippo of HTSI was chief judge for the contest. He said, "The speakers were excellent. It was nice to see these high school students participating in something special."

Local members of Toastmasters International, who used the Judge's Code of Ethics and Judging Criteria in examining the contestants' speeches, judged the contest. "I'm always impressed with the quality of the student's speeches and with the time spent on preparations," said NMA President Ken Schaaf. "It's good to see students participating in positive activities like these." ■

Compliance with section 508 will affect JSC activities

The way JSC approaches electronic and information technology is changing.

The Access Board, which is an independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities, has issued accessibility standards for electronic and information technology under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. All federal agencies have been directed to comply with these standards by June 21, 2001. Doing so will affect how business in this area will be handled at JSC.

The two areas of activity at JSC most likely to be affected are information technology procurement and the use of Web sites.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Council has published draft guidelines and received comments for the Section 508 regulations. The final rules should be in place before the June 21 deadline.

Procurement actions after that point must conform to the new regulations and will be subject to challenges related to degree of compliance. JSC Web sites, especially those available to the public, must provide access for people with vision impairments who rely on various assistive products to access computer-based information. Those products include screen readers, which translate what's on a computer screen into automated audible output, and refreshable Braille displays.

The standards do not prohibit the use of Web site graphics or animation. Instead, the standards aim to ensure that such information is also available in an accessible format. The law covers all types of electronic and information technology in use in the federal sector, including those used for communication, duplication, computing, storage,

presentation, control, transport and production. Examples of electronic and information technology include, but are not limited to, computers, software, networks, peripherals and other types of electronic office equipment.

The law is not limited to assistive technologies used by people with disabilities. It also applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain or use electronic and information technology. Federal agencies must ensure that this technology is accessible to employees and the public to the extent it does not pose an "undue burden," and even in these cases adequate alternative access to the information must be provided.

As an enforcement mechanism, the law sets up an administrative process under which individuals with disabilities can file a complaint alleging that a federal agency has not complied with the standards. This process uses the same complaint procedures established under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which covers access to federally-funded programs and services. It provides injunctive relief and attorney's fees to the prevailing party, but does not include compensatory or punitive damages. Individuals may also file a civil action against their agency if they feel it's warranted.

Anyone planning an IT procurement or establishing or maintaining a Web site should familiarize themselves with the Section 508 provisions. An excellent resource is the Access Board website at <http://www.access-board.gov/news/508-final.htm>.

Questions can also be addressed to Steve Gorman of the JSC CIO Office or Jessie Hendrick of EEOP Office.

Graduate opportunities for Summer and Fall 2001

Interested in pursuing an advanced degree? Here are some academic opportunities available at JSC. The University of Houston system will present briefings and Q&A for all interested students.

**MONDAY, MAY 21, 2001:
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM**

- University of Houston (UH)
- UH-Clear Lake (UHCL)
- UH-Downtown (UHD)
- UH-Victoria (UHV)

Building 12, Room 262 Briefings
11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:15-1:15 p.m.

- Master of Industrial Engineering/Engineering Management (UH)
- Master of Electrical Engineering (UH)
- Fundamentals of Engineering and Professional Engineering FE&PE (UH)

Building 12, Room 256 Briefings
11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:15-1:15 p.m.

- Master of Science in Software Engineering (UHCL)
- Master of Science in System Engineering (UHCL)

Building 12, Room 188 Briefings
11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:15-1:15 p.m.

- Master of Science in Computer Science (UH)
- Master of Business Administration Online (UHV)
- All other UH System Distance Education program information

Because JSC strongly supports academic training for its employees, we will pay for the tuition and fees of up to six hours per semester. Civil servants may have their courses paid up-front by submitting approved Applications for Training, JSC Form 75, to UH. If you have questions about how JSC supports these or other

academic programs, please contact Kay Westfall x33072 or Susan White x37011. UH Live ITV Classes On Site

SUMMER I Session 2001

FINA 6387 - 06597
Managerial Analysis

SUMMER III Session 2001

INDE 6337-06636
Human Factors System Design

FALL Session 2001

COSC 6360 - 11756
Operating Systems
ECE 7373 - 02319
Advance Topics in Computer Architecture
FINA 6387 - 11783
Managerial Analysis
INDE 6325 - 11261
Industrial Ergonomics
INDE 6335 - 02635
Ergonomics Administration

Visit the Web site:

<http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/training/courses/academic.htm> for additional information such as course descriptions and prerequisites

Interested in Distance Learning?

Please see the listing of the latest distance learning courses available at JSC. Visit the Web site: <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/training/courses/academic.htm>.

UCCS Distance Learning Courses

SUMMER Session 2001

MAE 4001 Engineering Analysis for Space Operations
MAE 5091 Space Environment
MAE 5095 Modeling and Simulation
MAE 5410 Fundamentals of Astrodynamics
MAE 5460 GPS Principles and Applications
MAE 5594 Space Communications Systems Design

For additional information and Fall 2001 offerings visit the UCCS Website: <http://mae.uccs.edu/>